



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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AGUIRRE ADDRESSES COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT ON QUALCOMM STADIUM ADVISORY BOARD

San Diego, CA: In response to the San Diego County Grand Jury's Report on the Qualcomm Stadium Advisory Board, City Attorney Michael Aguirre has already implemented some remedial measures and will be making recommendations to the Mayor on how to correct the deficiencies cited in the report. More specifically, the report found that two board members may have a conflict of interest because they have a financial or business relationship with the Stadium contractors.

"While we appreciate the volunteers who serve on boards and commissions, we want to ensure that the public's interest is fully served," said City Attorney Aguirre. "If the two board members, Mr. John Wertz and Mr. Michael Simonsen, do have a conflict of interest, they should stand aside. My Office has already communicated this message to them," added Aguirre.

Earlier this year the City Attorney's Office began a process for reviewing all applicants for boards and commissions. Future appointments to the Stadium Advisory Board will undergo this process to make certain that appointees do not have a conflict of interest in representing matters appearing before the board.

Another Grand Jury finding concerned the posting of the agendas for the advisory board. According to the City Attorney, beginning in January of this year, the agendas have been posted on the City's web page and in the security office at Qualcomm Stadium.

"The problems the County Grand Jury found were embarrassing. They can and will be corrected to better serve the taxpayers," said Mayor Jerry Sanders.

Two weeks ago, the City Attorney asked to speak to the Stadium Advisory Board concerning maintenance issues at Qualcomm Stadium. He will be appearing at its next meeting which is scheduled on March 9, 8:15 a.m. at the Stadium.

"We thank the County Grand Jury for identifying these issues and bringing them to the attention of the citizens of San Diego," said City Attorney Aguirre.

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